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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

*Memorandum*

TO : Ed. N.P.M.S.

DATE: 25 February 1975

FROM : Chief Editor, FBIS London Bureau

SUBJECT: Standardization: FBIS/BBC Sourcelines

The second meeting on this subject was held on 14 February 1975 with the attendance of yourself, [redacted]

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It was agreed: 1) that FBIS would use "domestic & external" in the sourceline for any transmitter which, on the basis of announced intention, transmission content or technical evidence, can be accurately determined as intended for both domestic and external audiences; 2) that FBIS will incorporate the thus far agreed principles into a list of sourcelines applying to BBC coverage and submit it to the BBC for review--the intent being to isolate for further discussion those sourcelines which conflict with the policies or principles of either side; 3) that each of the four participants will attempt to find an alternative designator for "clandestine" which will connote accurately the unusual characteristics of the transmission; 4) that "external" will be used only when there is no evidence of a specific target, but that "external" would be replaced with the specific target information when it can accurately be defined.

FBIS provided BBC with a copy of a sourceline manual which outlines the theory behind FBIS sourceline policy. Further discussion on general sourceline principles will await BBC's familiarization with the manual.

FBIS requested BBC adoption of the FBIS policy of uniform inclusion of language in all sourcelines. BBC will canvass its monitors to sound out the strength of objection to such a policy. BBC will also restudy its general practice on the usage of "provincial" and "regional" in sourcelines before discussion on possible changes in current usage or possible expansion of practice to include equivalent designators for countries other than China (e.g. "republican service" for some USSR transmitters).

BBC expressed a basic objection to the FBIS policy of insisting on providing the ~~name~~<sup>address</sup> of the transmitter in press agency sourcelines at the possible risk of inaccuracy, but agreed to withhold any specific criticisms or recommendations until it has reviewed the aforementioned list of proposed standardized sourcelines.

The next meeting was set for 1530 on Tuesday, 25 February.

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